

SECCS Seventh Edition

The first meeting of the California Early Care and Education Steering Committee was held February 14, 2005 at the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. Many thanks to the Steering Committee Members who spent their Valentine's Day creating a Mission and Vision Statement for the project. The results of their diligent efforts are:

VISION: California supports families and communities to ensure that children are safe, healthy and learning every day.

Mission: The mission of California's Early Childhood Comprehensive System Initiative is to develop an integrated, comprehensive approach that supports and strengthens families and communities and offers equal opportunities for young children to achieve their full potential.

The Steering Committee will continue to work on the guiding principles and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, over the next six months.

THIS MONTH, THE EXCITING PROJECT BEING HIGHLIGHTED, IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, IS THE **CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE ON HUMAN SERVICES (CIHS):**

Located at Sonoma State University, CIHS is dedicated to translating research and best practices into quality services for all children and their families. The services offered by CIHS range widely: program planning and evaluation, resource development, facilitation and support of collaborative efforts and training and technical assistance. Current areas of focus include child and spousal abuse prevention, early childhood education, language development, literacy, school improvement, service learning, special education and vocational and career education. Examples of CIHS programs are: First 5 California Special Needs Coordination and Training Project, the Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program and the Map to Inclusive Child Care Project.

For more information visit their website at www.sonoma.edu/cihs/

The National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy is pleased to announce the release of an update to the report series Building State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems.

The update includes:

- **Building Community Systems for Young Children: Early Childhood Education, #11.** This report discusses the importance of quality early care and education programs, current funding sources, and potential roles for ECE providers with regard to developmental services, general health needs, inclusion of children with special health care needs, and mental and behavioral health. The report presents policy goals and potential strategies for SECCS initiative planning.
- **Addressing Social-Emotional Development and Infant Mental Health in Early Childhood Systems, #12.** This report provides an introduction to the field of social and emotional development in young children and infants. It lays out a model of a broad system of care that encompasses multiple service sectors (e.g., early care and education, primary health care, family support), at three levels of intensity, and across four functional roles. The report presents policy recommendations for how the SECCS initiative can help states move toward this model of care. An executive summary of this report is currently in development.
- **Family Support: Fostering Leadership and Partnerships to Improve Access, #14. (Brief)** This brief can serve as an executive summary of the full report released earlier. The brief and report provide an overview of what family support entails, information about financing family support services, and strategies to enhance family support through the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) initiative.

All of the briefs, reports, and tools are available to download at the National Center website: www.healthychild.ucla.edu/NationalCenterT.

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